

Musk Lorikeets at Alfred Cove.—On September 28, 1975 a group of Naturalists' Club members watched a fight between several birds in a tall eucalypt near the Swan River foreshore at Alfred Cove. Two birds fell from a height of thirty or so feet, still fighting, and, when approached, flew off. One was a Twenty-eight Parrot (*Baruwardius zouariius*) and the other a small green lorikeet, clearly not the only endemic south-western species, the Purple-crowned Lorikeet (*Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*). As we watched two lorikeets entered a hollow spout in the tree (an old Flooded Gum, *Eucalyptus rudis*) and shortly afterwards strongly defended their territory from the much larger Twenty-eights. They were identified as Musk Lorikeets (*Glossopsitta concinna*), a species not represented in the West, their normal range being south-eastern Australia. The birds were a male and female in full breeding plumage, bright green with distinctive red and blue facial markings, a bright red bill and yellow on the side of the breast. They continued to ward off the Twenty-eights, flying directly towards them and calling loudly whenever they approached the hollow too closely.

Dr. G. M. Storr, of the W.A. Museum, positively identified the birds from colour photographs taken at the Cove and agreed that the most likely explanation of their presence was as escapees from captivity. However he pointed out that the possibility of the birds having flown unaided from the South-East cannot be ruled out. He has already advanced this explanation for the Rainbow Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus moluccanus*) established at Nedlands (*W. Aust. Nat.*, 12 (5), 1973: 116); incidentally these now occur also at Safety Bay. Neither the Zoological Gardens nor the Avicultural Society could account for the birds' presence.

The lorikeets were regularly seen in the area throughout the months of October and November. Soon after the first sighting they moved to another hollow spout a few feet away in the same tree, this hollow having two entrances. In the meantime a pair of Trec-Martins (*Petrochelidon nigricans*) nested in the original hole. The lorikeets appeared to enter their hollow in the evening to roost, flying in with a fast direct flight on short whirring wings. The call is a piercing shriek.

At the beginning of 1976 a Club member heard what may have been young birds calling from the hollow. Following this up, on March 15 and 22, 1976 (by which time the plumage of the adults had become much less colourful) three birds were seen to enter and leave the hollow, one being markedly duller than the other two in appearance. It seems likely that this represents the first recorded breeding of the Musk Lorikeet in Western Australia.

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Breeding Records of the Grey Honeyeater.—On October 27, 1975, in the Yalgoo district, B.A.W. found "a small nest of frail structure, attached to the extremity of a horizontal branch of a narrow leaved mulga, about 8 feet from the ground" (cf. Serventy & Whittell, *Birds of Western Australia*, 4th edn., 1967, p. 380, on the Grey Honeyeater, *Lacustroica whitei*). The nest was completely filled by one well advanced nestling, the most obvious feature of which was a golden ring around the eye, corresponding to the similar feature of the Western Silvereye (*Zosterops lateralis gouldi*).

The nestling was being fed by two small greyish unattractive birds which lacked any interesting or remarkable coloration except for whitish underbody. However when we approached the nest, the birds fluttered to the nearest tree with an aerial display of white feathers, seemingly intended to distract our attention from the nestling.